

The Embassy's Public Affairs Section is pleased to announce the call for nominations to the Summer 2016 Study of the U.S. Institutes for Scholars.

## **SUMMER 2016 STUDY OF THE U.S. INSTITUTES (SUSI) FOR SCHOLARS**

### **Program Overview**

Study of the U.S. Institutes (SUSI) for Scholars are intensive post-graduate level academic programs with integrated study tours whose purpose is to provide foreign university faculty and other scholars the opportunity to deepen their understanding of American society, culture, values, and institutions. The ultimate goal of these institutes is to strengthen curricula and to enhance the quality of teaching about the United States in academic institutions abroad.

SUSI for Scholars will take place at colleges, universities, and institutions throughout the United States over the course of six weeks beginning in or after June 2016. Each institute includes a four week academic residency component and an integrated study tour of up to two weeks. If interested, please visit <http://exchanges.state.gov/susi> for general information about the institutes.

### **2016 SUSI for Scholars will be held on the following themes:**

The **Institute on Contemporary American Literature** will provide a multinational group of foreign scholars with a deeper understanding of U.S. society and culture, past and present, through an examination of contemporary American (U.S.) literature. Its purpose is twofold: to explore contemporary American literature and to suggest how the themes explored in those works reflect larger currents within contemporary U.S. society. The program will explore the diversity of the American literary landscape, examining how major contemporary writers reflect the traditions of the U.S. literary canon. At the same time, the program will expose participants to writers who represent a departure from those traditions, and who are establishing new directions for American literature.

The **Institute on Journalism and Media** will provide a multinational group of journalism instructors with a deeper understanding of the roles journalism and the media play in U.S. society. The Institute will examine the rights and responsibilities of the media in a democratic society, including editorial independence, journalistic ethics, legal constraints, international journalism, and media business models. The Institute will examine pedagogical strategies for

teaching students of journalism the basics of the tradecraft: researching, reporting, writing, and editing. The program will also highlight the impact of technology on journalism, such as the influence of the Internet, the globalization of the news media, the growth of satellite television and radio networks, and other changes that are transforming the profession.

The **Institute on Religious Pluralism in the United States** will provide a multinational group of foreign university faculty with a deeper understanding of U.S. society and culture, past and present, through an examination of religious pluralism in the United States and its intersection with American democracy. Employing a multi-disciplinary approach and drawing on fields such as history, political science, sociology, anthropology, and law, the program will explore both the historical and contemporary relationship between church and state in the United States. Participants will examine aspects of religious pluralism in the United States: the ways in which religious thought and practice have influenced, and been influenced by, the development of American-style democracy; the intersections of religion and politics in the United States in such areas as elections, public policy, and foreign policy; and the sociology and demography of religion in the United States today, including a survey of the diversity of contemporary religious beliefs and its impact on American politics and society.

The **Institute on U.S. Culture and Society** will provide a multinational group of foreign university faculty with a deeper understanding of U.S. society, culture, values, and institutions. The Institute will examine the ethnic, racial, social, economic, political, and religious contexts in which various cultures have manifested in U.S. society while focusing on the ways in which these cultures have influenced social movements and American identity throughout U.S. history. The program will draw from a diverse disciplinary base, and will itself provide a model of how a foreign university might approach the study of U.S. culture and society.

The **Institute on U.S. Foreign Policy** will provide a multinational group of foreign university faculty with a deeper understanding of how contemporary U.S. foreign policy is formulated and implemented. The Institute will include a historical review of significant events, individuals, and philosophies that have shaped U.S. foreign policy. The Institute will explain the role of key players in U.S. foreign policy including the executive and legislative branches of government, the media, the U.S. public, think-tanks, non-governmental organizations, and multilateral institutions.

The **Institute on U.S. Political Thought** will provide a multinational group of foreign university faculty with a deeper understanding of major currents in U.S. political thought from the colonial period to the present. Drawing upon the American Political Development approach, the Institute will provide a full and diverse understanding of U.S. political thought its connection to U.S. politics and institutions by linking contemporary issues with historical debates. The Institute will explore particular themes including self-rule and limited government, liberty and freedom, individualism and identity, equality and inequality, and the American dream. The Institute concludes with an integrated two-week study tour to Boston, New York City, Gettysburg, Charlottesville, and Washington, D.C.

### **Other Essential Program Information**

**Program Funding:** The U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Exchange will cover all participant costs, including: program administration; travel and ground transportation in the United States; housing and subsistence; and book, cultural, mailing, and incidental allowances. The Embassy's Public Affairs Section will cover international travel costs for selected individuals.

**Housing and Meal Arrangements:** When possible, each participant will have a private room with a shared bathroom during the residency portion (four weeks) of the Institute. However, private room accommodations cannot be guaranteed during the residency portion of the program. During the study tour (up to two weeks), participants will likely share a hotel room with another participant of the same gender. During the residency, housing will typically be in college or university owned housing. Most meals will be provided at campus facilities, though participants may have access to a kitchen to cook some meals on their own.

Care will be taken to ensure that any special requirements regarding diet, daily worship, housing, and medical care are satisfied. **Please note that a portion of the program will take place during Ramadan.** While the host institution will make every effort to accommodate participants who are fasting, participants should be made aware of the rigorous nature of the Institute and the expectation that the success of the Institute depends on their full participation.

**Program Requirements and Restrictions:** Participants are expected to participate fully in the program. Candidates should be made aware that they are applying for an intensive program and there will be little time for personal pursuits unrelated to the program. The Institute is not a research program. Participants must attend all lectures and organized activities and complete assigned readings. Family members and/or friends may not accompany participants on any part of the program. Please note that Institute curriculum will not formally address teaching methodology and pedagogical methods.

### **Candidate Description and Qualifications**

Study of the U.S. Institutes for Scholars are highly competitive. Priority will be given to candidates who have firm plans to enhance, update or develop courses and/or educational materials with a U.S. studies focus or component; who have no prior or limited experience in the United States; and who have special interest in the program subject areas as demonstrated through past scholarship, accomplishments, and professional duties. Every effort will be made to achieve both a geographic and gender balance in the makeup of the Institute.

Candidates should be mid-career, typically between the ages of 30-50, highly-motivated, experienced scholars and professionals generally from institutions of higher education or research focused organizations (not-for-profits, think tanks, etc.). While the educational level of participants will likely vary, most should have graduate degrees and have substantial knowledge of the thematic area of the Institute or a related field.

Ideal candidates are individuals whose home institution is seeking to introduce aspects of U.S. studies into its curricula, to develop new courses in the subject of the Institute, to enhance and update existing courses on the United States, or to offer specialized seminars/workshops for professionals in U.S. studies areas related to the program theme. While the nominee's scholarly and professional credentials are an important consideration, the potential impact and multiplier effect of the Institute is equally important. Ideal candidates will have little or no prior experience in the United States.

Candidates must demonstrate English language fluency which is vital to a successful experience in the Institute. Institutes are rigorous and demanding programs; participants will be expected to handle substantial reading assignments in English and to fully and actively participate in all seminar and panel discussions.

Candidates should be willing and able to fully take part in an intensive post-graduate level academic program and study tour, and must be comfortable with campus life and an active program schedule. Individuals from diverse backgrounds including those from disadvantaged groups and women are encouraged to apply. While senior faculty members and new professionals to the field are eligible applicants, first consideration will be extended to mid-career professionals with little or no prior experience in the United States.

Interested parties must complete the attached application form and transmit this via email to Marilou Apolinario, [apolinariomr@state.gov](mailto:apolinariomr@state.gov) by January 11, 2016. Queries regarding SUSI for Scholars may also be addressed via email to Ms. Apolinario.

The U.S. Embassy's Public Affairs Section will screen applications; select those most appropriate, and transmit these to the Study of the U.S. Branch in Washington, D.C. for final review and selection. Successful candidates will be notified accordingly.

We are pleased to extend this exchange opportunity and look forward to receiving applications.